

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 56

Reps. Robinson, Marino, Elder, Koleszar, Tate, Coleman, Brenda Carter, Tyrone Carter, Neeley, Garza, Liberati, Guerra, Manoogian, Bellino, LaFave, Mueller, Hammoud, Camilleri, Bolden, Haadsma, Warren, Gay-Dagnogo, Hertel, Sowerby, Sneller, Wittenberg, Sabo, Shannon, Lasinski, Rabhi, Jones, Kennedy, Whitsett, Cherry, Brixie, Yancey, Markkanen and Love offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge the Congress of the United States to  
2 consider legislation or other reforms to help stabilize distressed  
3 multiemployer pension systems.

4           Whereas, Pensions are a leading source of income for retired  
5 Michiganders. According to Michigan's Department of Treasury, in  
6 recent years, pension and annuity distributions made up more than  
7 33 percent of a retiree's income. For these individuals, Social  
8 Security income accounted for less than half of that amount—15



1 percent—of their income in the same period. Across the nation, it  
2 is estimated that more than 30 percent of American retirees have  
3 secured their retirement with defined benefit retirement plans; and

4       Whereas, Defined benefit plans, particularly multiemployer  
5 plans, are credited with keeping millions of industrial and post-  
6 industrial American laborers from poverty's reach, but these  
7 systems are coming under increased financial strain and could  
8 collapse. Of the 10 million Americans with multiemployer plans,  
9 about 1.5 million are members of a plan considered to be in serious  
10 financial jeopardy. If these plans collapse, a significant portion  
11 of their income will evaporate, and through no fault of their own,  
12 members who made pension contributions for decades in exchange for  
13 security in retirement will no longer receive the benefits they  
14 were promised; and

15       Whereas, Federal legislation that could stabilize distressed  
16 multiemployer pension systems may be necessary for the long-term  
17 well-being of plan members. The Congress of the United States  
18 should take the solvency of these pension plans seriously and  
19 investigate ways to stabilize distressed multiemployer pension  
20 plans; and

21       Whereas, The national debt has doubled in the last decade and  
22 increased pressure has been placed on the Social Security Trust  
23 Fund. To secure a healthy retirement for retirees and a prosperous  
24 future for their children, these issues need to be addressed  
25 alongside multiemployer pension systems; now, therefore, be it

26       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
27 Congress of the United States to consider legislation or other  
28 reforms to help stabilize distressed multiemployer pension systems;  
29 and be it further



1           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
2 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
3 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
4 congressional delegation.

